



It's Simple

Opening Question

What did our prayer time on Sunday mean to you?

Considering our Prayer "Hurdles"

Why do people attend prayer gatherings but don't participate in the prayer?
What reasons can you think of?

Learning How to Pray

In Matthew 6:5-6, Jesus told people to pray in secret, but he didn't always pray in secret. What do you think of his intentionally public prayer in John 11:41-43?

Combine those two passages. Do they conflict? Why would Jesus once tell people not to pray in public, but in another place intentionally pray a public prayer for the benefit of the people around him?

Read Matthew 6:7-8. What do you think of Jesus' teaching here?

Jesus teaches that praying should be simple and not showy. It should draw our attention toward God and off ourselves whether in private or in group settings, and it should embrace an attitude of trust, recognizing that God already knows our needs and is trustworthy to meet them.

Jesus' Prayer Pattern

Read Matthew 6:9-15. This is not a prayer to memorize and recite but a pattern to guide us in praying. On Sunday, I paraphrased it this way:

-  Recognize God and Praise Him.
-  Seek God's will above that of you or others.
-  Ask for Physical Needs.
-  Ask for Relational Grace.
-  Ask for Spiritual Deliverance.

End your time in prayer by following this pattern. Spend a few moments as a group on each section. I encourage everyone in the group to offer in prayer at least a single word or sentence on each topic before moving on to the next topic. **Also, for the sake of our church and our work in our new buildings, linger on the last topic for a while seeking God's divine provision and protection on us as we turn those buildings of brokenness into places of blessing.**



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